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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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SUBJECT:DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS LINK

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US/USSR DATED SEPT. 30, 1971
AGREED TO MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS LINK
(HOT LINE). SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND SOVIET
TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS, CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO
IMPLEMENT THE IMPROVED DCL AGREEMENT USING THE US SPONSORED
INTELSAT SYSTEM AND THE SOVIET SPONSORED MOLNIYA SYSTEM,
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SET AGREED DATE FOR FULL OPERATION OF THE NEW DCL SATELLITE FACILITIES AS THE END OF 1974. DURING THE LAST SESSION OF TECHNICAL TALKS HELD IN MOSCOW DECEMBER 1973, IT WAS AGAIN CONFIRMED THAT THE IMPROVED DCL ACTIVATION DATE WOULD BE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1974.

2. BASED UPON GENERAL AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, RESULTING FROM THESE TALKS, US PROCEEDED TO MEET COMMITMENT FOR THE ACTIVATION OF A MOLNIYA SATELLITE STATION IN THE U.S. AND TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOVIET USE OF THE INTEL-SAT SYSTEM, INCLUDING CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THIS PHASE OF SERVICE. THESE ACTIONS WERE TAKEN WELL IN ADVANCE TO INSURE THERE WOULD BE NO DELAY IN MEETING US OBLIGATION

TO ACTIVATE THE IMPROVED DCL BY THE END OF DECEMBER 1974. IT WAS ASSUMED THE SOVIETS WOULD ALSO MEET THEIR OBLIGATION IN A SIMILAR MANNER.

3. FOR THE PAST 7 MONTHS, PREPARATIONS FOR ACTIVATING THE IMPROVED DCL HAVE BEEN MOST EXTENSIVE WITH THE U.S. FURNISHING THE SOVIETS TECHNICAL DATA RELATING TO SYSTEMS DESIGN, OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, PRELIMINARY TESTING AND OTHER MATERIAL REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE DECEMBER 1973 PROTOCOLS. THE SOVIETS WERE ALSO ASKED TO AGREE TO A TESTING AND OPERATIONAL SCHEDULE OF THE MOLNIYA AND INTELSAT SYSTEMS, WHICH WOULD INSURE FINAL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY TO MEET THE DECEMBER 1974 TARGET DATE. PERTINENT DATA HAS BEEN FORWARDED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. TECHNICAL DELEGATION, WILLIS E. NAEHER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATION TO HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART, DR. VLADIMIR MINASHIN, CHIEF SATELLITE DEPARTMENT, USSR MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, VIA AMEMBASSY MOSCOW.

4. TECHNICAL DATA EXCHANGE HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS ONE SIDED, IN THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED VERY LITTLE INFORMATION FROM THE SOVIETS AND REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION HAVE BEEN NON-PRODUCTIVE. JULY 23, 1974 LETTER FROM MR. NAEHER TO DR. MINASHIN STRESSED THE NEED TO EXPEDITE ACTIONS AND ASKED HIS ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING THE INFORMATION SO URGENTLY NEEDED. AMEMBASSY WAS FURNISHED OFFICIAL USE

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NISHED A COPY OF THIS LETTER. IT HAS NOW REACHED POINT IN TIME THAT IF WE DO NOT OBTAIN RESPONSES TO OUR REQUESTS, ACTIVATION OF THE IMPROVED DCL WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE IN 1974. ALSO, MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT THE U.S. HAS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS WITH VARIOUS VENDORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR SPECIFIC SERVICES NEEDED TO MEET OUR COMMITMENTS AS STIPULATED BY US.USSR AGREEMENTS. THESE OBLIGATIONS ARE

NOW COSTING THE U.S. FUNDS FOR SERVICES WHICH CAN NOT BE UTILIZED.

5. IT IS MOST URGENT THAT THE U.S. OBTAIN AN UNDERSTANDING FROM THE SOVIETS THAT THEY DO INTEND TO ACTIVATE THE IMPROVED DCL BY THE END OF 1974, AGREE TO CONDUCT TECHNICAL TESTS AND PROVIDE AN ACTIVATION SCHEDULE. IF NOT, THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO DISCONTINUE, CERTAIN SERVICES WHEREVER POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO CONSERVE FUNDS, AND HOPEFULLY RE-ESTABLISH THEM AT A LATER DATE WHEN NEEDED.

6. FACED WITH THIS PROBLEM THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY REVIEW OF OVERALL SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DEPARTMENT WOULD SUGGEST THAT CHARGE CONSIDER APPROACH TO MFA TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM. POINTS FOR

DISCUSSION WOULD BE: (1) AGREE SOONEST TO CONDUCT PRELIMINARY TESTS IN BOTH SYSTEMS (MOLNIYA AND INTELSAT) TO ASSURE BASIC DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MEETS OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. TESTS SHOULD BEGIN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1 IF WE ARE TO HAVE REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF MAKING SYSTEM OPERATIONAL BY END 1974 (2) URGE RESPONSIBLE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO FURNISH REPLIES SOONEST TO ALL OUTSTANDING DCL ACTIONS. (3) OBTAIN ASSURANCES THE DCL PROJECT WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD AND PREVIOUSLY AGREED OR IF SOVIET PROGRESS DELAYED ASCERTAIN WHEN THEY WILL BE ABLE TO BEING TESTS?

7. IF EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE, THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO ARRANGE FOR MR. NAEHER TO VISIT MOSCOW TO DISCUSS THESE OUTSTANDING ACTIONS WITH DR. MINASHIN, AND MFA OFFICIALS, IF NECESSARY. DO YOU CONSIDER THIS MORE SUITABLE AND WOULD THE SOVIETS PREFER THIS APPROACH? IF SO, PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER
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